



The Guardian

The monthly newsletter of the New Mexico Dept. of Veterans Services
August, 2022

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President Biden Signs PACT Act Into Law



On August 10, President Joe Biden signed into law the Honoring Our PACT Act of 2022 to provide broad relief to veterans suffering the effects of exposure to toxic chemicals from “burn pits” and other service-related sources.

Burn pits are large holes dug into the ground that the U.S. commonly used in Iraq, Afghanistan and other overseas locations to dispose of waste collected on military bases. That included items that produced dangerous toxic smoke when burned, such as plastics, rubber, chemical mixtures and medical waste.

Officially called *The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022*—or [the PACT Act](#)--the new law provides VA health care for medical conditions associated with exposure to toxic smoke resulting from burn pits, including several forms of cancer and lung disease.

The PACT Act removes an eligible veteran’s burden of proof when filing a medical claim—giving them the benefit of doubt. VA will now consider a list of illnesses as presumptively caused by exposure to burn pits and Agent Orange—thus, expanding coverage to veterans exposed to toxic chemicals during service in Vietnam, the Gulf War, and other areas associated with the United States’ global war on terrorism.



The law was named in honor of Ohio Army National Guard Sgt. Heath Robinson, who died in 2020 from a rare lung cancer he had long claimed was attributed to burn pit smoke exposure during his deployments to Iraq in 2006 and 2007. He and his wife Danielle became strong advocates for burn pit legislation after VA, not believing his condition was service connected, denied his claim for health care treatment.

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“We owe you,” said President Biden upon signing the bill. “You’re the backbone. You’re the steel. You’re the sinew. You’re the very fiber that makes this country what it is.”

New Mexico Department of Veterans Services Cabinet Secretary Sonya Smith has high praise for the members of Congress for coming together to pass the bill, and for President Biden for quickly signing it into law.

“This is one of the most important pieces of veteran-related legislation passed in Congress in my lifetime,” said the former U.S. Air Force medical technician who was deployed to Oman in support of Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield. “The men and women who have been suffering from toxic exposures that were service-related can now finally get the treatment they should’ve been getting long ago.”

Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022: Help For Veterans & Families Exposed to Contaminated Water at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune



Also contained in the PACT Act, Section 804, is a provision entitled *the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022*. This allows individuals to sue the U.S. government to recover damages for harm caused by exposure to contaminated water at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987. This action is available only to individuals who were exposed to contaminated water for at least 30 days.

Until this act was passed, veterans could not sue the United States based on the Feres Doctrine, a legal provision that prevents service members who are injured while on active duty from successfully suing the federal government.

All lawsuits relating to the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 must be filed in the [U.S. Federal Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina](#) within 180 days of a denial of the administrative claim or two years from the signing the act (August 10, 2024), whichever is later.

“I want to thank our members of Congress for having the courage to come together and pass the landmark PACT Act and the Camp Lejeune Act of 2022, and for President Biden’s continued support of these important pieces of legislation,” said DVS Cabinet Secretary Sonya Smith. “To veterans and their family members here in New Mexico who even remotely suspect they may have medical conditions tied to these bills, please immediately contact us. We will help you refile a previously-denied claim, or file a new one, to get the medical care you’ve long deserved and is now available.”

DVS has 21 certified veterans service officers (VSOs) throughout the state to help file claims. Please go to the back two pages of this newsletter for office locations and VSO contact information. In addition to in-office visits, veterans from anywhere in the state can contact any VSO for phone or email help.

DVS Fills Several Key Vacancies

DVS is pleased to announce the filling of key vacancies this summer--including the veterans service officer (VSO) vacancy in Taos and the reopening of that office, which had been closed for the past five years. This brings the number of field offices to 15, and the number of VSOs to 20--the most ever in the history of the agency.



Leticia "Lety" Cano is the new Taos VSO, in the re-opened Taos DVS field office at 145 Roy Road in the New Mexico Human Services Department building.

Lety comes to DVS from the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, where as a Local Veteran Employment Representative (LVER) in Taos, she helped veterans with job searches, counseling, development & training, and referral services to other agencies.

The Las Cruces native served four years with the United States Marine Corps providing aviation maintenance & support at Camp Pendleton in San Diego (CA) County. After completing her service, Lety earned an Associates Degree in Water Technology from New Mexico State University.

Leticia "Lety" Cano
DVS Taos VSO

Veterans who would like in-office assistance with filing VA claims, filing for state benefits, or with anything else can make an appointment with Lety by calling (575) 709-5263, or by email at leticial.cano@state.nm.us.

Patrick Abney is one of two new VSOs in the DVS Albuquerque office, located in the city's Northeast Heights at 5201 Eagle Rock Boulevard NE.

The native of Hawthorne, CA, served 20-years with the United States Air Force and the New Mexico Army National Guard before retiring as a major in 2003. While in service, he was an F4G "Wild Weasel" electronics calibration technician and then an air defense artillery officer.

Patrick was stationed at NMNG posts in Belen, TorC, Socorro, Roswell, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque. He was also stationed at Ft. Bliss in El Paso, TX, and was deployed in 2003 to the Persian Gulf as part of Operation Southern Watch. While on active duty, Patrick earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Applied Management from National American University in Albuquerque. Veterans or their eligible dependents can make appointments for in-office assistance with Patrick by emailing him at patrick.abney@state.nm.us or calling (505) 525-3331.



Patrick Abney
DVS Albuquerque VSO

Dayle Bad Warrior is the other new VSO based at the DVS Albuquerque Northeast Heights office.



Dayle Bad Warrior
Albuquerque VSO

She comes to DVS from the New Mexico Department of Health, where she was an Incident Management Bureau investigator of reported allegations of abuse, neglect & exploitation of people receiving services from community-based waiver programs.

The native of Eagle Butte, SD, is a proud member of the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe. Dayle served 24 years with the U.S. Navy as a senior chief aviation machinist's mate working mainly on EA 6B Prowlers, P-3 Orions, C-40 Clippers, F-14 Tomcats, and F-18 Hornets.

Dayle was also part of the first gender-integrated carrier crews on the aircraft carriers USS Abraham Lincoln and USS Carl Vinson. She was also deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Dubai, and Qatar in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Veterans or their eligible dependents can make appointments for in-office assistance with Dayle by emailing her at dayle.badwarrior1@state.nm.us or calling (505) 383-2400.

April Ball is the new DVS VSO in the agency's Grants/Cibola County field office, located at 551 Washington Avenue.

She comes to the agency from Cardinal Health in Albuquerque, where she worked in quality control for the delivery of radiopharmaceuticals and oncology pharmaceuticals to client medical providers. Her focus was in the overseeing that deliveries were in done in accordance with the strict industry and Dept. of Transportation standards.

The native of Hendersonville, NV, served 22 years in the U.S. Navy before retiring as a chief yeoman/E-7. She was stationed in San Diego, CA; Chinhae, South Korea; and Virginia Beach, VA, while serving on the dock landing ship USS Oak Hill, and the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush.



April Ball
Grants VSO

Along the way, April enrolled in classes from Villanova University and the University of Notre Dame for Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, Agile Project Management, and HR Manager certifications.

Veterans and their eligible dependents can set up in-office appointments with April by calling (505) 521-8132 or by email at april.ball@state.nm.us.

John Livingston is the new DVS VSO in the agency's Gallup/McKinley County office, located in the Veterans Helping Veterans Center at 908 E. Buena Vista Avenue.

The Gallup native comes to DVS from the University of Northern Arizona, where he is working on finishing his Bachelor of Science Degree in Geographic Sciences and Community Planning (he's just one class away from completion).

John used his G.I. Bill® education benefit shortly after serving 16 years in the U.S. Navy. The majority of his service was spent serving as an operations specialist on the San Diego, CA-based destroyers USS Benfold, USS Higgins, USS Halsey, and USS Sterett. He served the last 3-1/2 years of active duty as a recruiter in Farmington and Gallup.



John Livingston
DVS Gallup VSO

Veterans or their eligible dependents can make appointments for in-office assistance with John by emailing him at john.livingston@state.nm.us or calling (505) 525-3331.

Freddy Solis-Littlejohn is the new VSO in the DVS Hobbs/Lea County field office, located at 2120 North Alto Street.



The El Monte, CA, native previously worked for the New Mexico Human Services Department's income support division as a family assistance analyst responsible for interviewing clients and assisting the public with obtaining benefits.

Veterans or their eligible dependents can make appointments for in-office assistance with Freddy by emailing him at fred.solis-little@state.nm.us or calling (575) 241-0714.

Freddy Solis-Littlejohn
DVS Hobbs VSO



Theresa Figueroa
Women Veterans
Program Manager

Theresa Figueroa is the new DVS women veterans program manager. She fills the vacancy created when Robin Wilson accepted the vacant DVS field services division director position.

Theresa is based in the Albuquerque Northeast Heights Office, located at 5201 Eagle Rock Boulevard NE. She comes to DVS from the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, where she was a local veterans employment representative (LVER) at the DWS Albuquerque office. Her focus was on advocating for the hiring of veterans by local employers, coordinating veteran job fairs, and providing various other support services for community agencies that provided services for veterans.

The native of Taos previously served for seven years in the U.S. Army and the New Mexico Army National Guard as a combat medic, completing her service as a sergeant/E-5. Her service took her to assignments and deployments to Fort Carson, CO; Kuwait, and Camp Casey, South Korea.

As the DVS women veterans program manager, Theresa will focus solely on helping women veterans file VA claims, apply for state veterans benefits, or helping with anything else a woman veteran needs help with. To schedule an appointment, or for help via phone or email, please contact Theresa at theresaE.figueroa@state.nm.us

Ian Scott is the new State Approving Agency (SAA) program specialist. He will assist SAA Director Kathy Snyder with carrying out the SAA's function of overseeing the quality and integrity of colleges, universities, trade school, and other job training programs for veterans to safely use their GI Bill® education benefit.

The Santa Clarita, CA, native comes to DVS from Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) in Albuquerque. During his 11-years there as a VA school certifying official, he helped student-veterans with their GI Bill needs.

Ian served 21 years in the U.S. Air Force as a turboprop jet engine mechanic—primarily working on C-130 aircraft; and CH-53 and H-60 “Blackhawk” helicopters. He was stationed at Pope, Hurlburt, Edwards, and Kirtland Air Force Bases here in the U.S., as well as Sembach Air Base in Germany and Kadena Air Base on Okinawa.



Ian Scott
SAA Program Specialist

While in service, Ian was the only USAF mechanic to tear down and rebuild a CV-22 “Osprey” engine. Ian also served two years as a security police augmentee before retiring as a master sergeant. He then used his GI Bill education benefit to obtain a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration at the University of New Mexico, with a concentration in finance and a minor in communications. ian.scott@state.nm.us, or (505) 383-2400.

Diana Myklebust is the new business operations specialist for the DVS Cemeteries & Monuments Program. She is in charge of the administrative side of the program, managing the budget, procurements, invoicing/accounts payable duties, event planning & coordination, customer service, and managing the state's all-volunteer Honor Guard units.

The El Paso, TX, native comes to DVS from Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) in Albuquerque, where she was the office administrator for the dean of the students and the Veteran Resource Center. Diana was awarded the prestigious "CNM Employee of the Year" award for four straight years. Her focus was on helping students with any concerns and complaints—and also helping student-veterans with any education or benefits-related issues. Diana can be contacted at diana.myklebust@state.nm.us or (505) 231-8911.



Diana Myklebust
Business Operations Specialist



Jeremy Anaya is the business operations specialist for the DVS Healthcare Coordination Division. In this newly created position, he will provide division Director Diane Mourning Brown and social worker Connie Vargas with much-needed administrative support as the division makes plans to expand its scope of service.

The Santa Fe native and son of U.S. Army veterans (his father served with the 1st Battalion, 31st infantry; his mother with the 1st Cavalry) comes to DVS from Century Bank, where as a customer service representative he provided full-service customer service, and also assisted with financial transfers and overall operations monitoring.

Jeremy Anaya
Healthcare Coordination Division
Business Operations Specialist

Jeremy attended Adams State University in Alamosa, CO, before earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Marketing from the University of Phoenix.

DVS Claims/Benefits Outreach Visits in September

DVS VSOs and staff are scheduled to make the following veterans benefits outreach visits in September in the communities listed below. Veterans or their eligible dependents can drop by to get information about or help with filing VA claims, applying for state veterans benefits, or assistance with any other issues.

<u>Date</u>	<u>City/Venue</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Time</u>
Sep. 6	Cuba /Cuba Senior Center	16 W. Cordova	10am-2pm
Sep. 7	Los Lunas /Valencia County Assessor's Office	444 Luna Ave.	10am-2pm
Sep. 9	Cimarron /Cimarron Village Hall	356 Ninth St.	10am-2pm
Sep. 14	Ruidoso /Ruidoso Community Center	501 Sudderth Dr.	9am-3pm
Sep. 19	Albuquerque /Los Volcanes Senior Center	6500 Los Volcanes Rd. NW	10am-2pm
Sep. 21	Santa Rosa /Guadalupe County Veterans Ctr.	720 Lake Drive	10am-2pm
Sep. 23	Rio Rancho /Loma Colorado Main Library	755 Loma Colorado Blvd. NE	10am-2pm
Sep. 26	Albuquerque /VA Hospital Lobby	1501 San Pedro Dr. SE	10am-2pm



DVS Provides Benefits Outreach at Free Dental Care Event

DVS Albuquerque-based Veterans Service Officer Patrick Abney (left photo, in blue shirt) made an outreach visit to Santa Fe Modern Dentistry on August 20.

The visit was part of the 12th Annual “We Serve” Day presented by Pacific Dental—a nationwide event providing a day of free dental care for veterans. Abney provided VA and state veterans benefits

counseling while veterans waited to be serviced by the dental staff. Also on hand was Phillip Chavez from the Santa Fe Vet Center, (left photo, with Patrick) who provided information about the free behavioral health counseling offered to veterans by VA Vet centers.



Santa Fe Modern Dentistry was founded by Dr. Kelley Hollingsworth Ryals (right photo, in uniform), who is also a member of the New Mexico National Guard, and has taken part in this annual free day every year of its existence. This year her staff provided an estimated \$25,000 worth of treatment for 13 veterans who took advantage of the program.



Free Dental Care in Farmington Sep. 23-24 (Adults & Children. Veterans Invited to Stop By)



FREE DENTAL CLINIC

HELP BRING SMILES TO NEW MEXICO

September 23-24, 2022 • McGee Park, Farmington, NM

FREE TWO-DAY DENTAL/MEDICAL CLINIC
DOORS OPEN AT 5:15AM ON FRIDAY & SATURDAY

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DVS Leadership Attends National Conference of State Dept. of Veterans Affairs Directors

A visit to the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial and the historic U.S. Navy battleship U.S.S. Missouri capped the 2022 National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) Annual Training Conference for DVS Cabinet Secretary Sonya Smith.

Accompanying her to the August 14-17 conference in Honolulu, HI, were DVS Field Services Division Director Robin Wilson, State Benefits Division Director Ed Mendez, and Tribal/Pueblo Liaison Beverly Charley (*photo below*). Below are some reflections about the conference as told by Secretary Smith.



NASDVA held its annual training conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, August 14-17. NASDVA was founded in 1946 to help coordinate state and federal entitlements and ensure veterans receive the benefits they have earned.

NASDVA members represent all fifty states—plus the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. DVS has a strong history with this prestigious organization. Former Cabinet Secretary John Garcia is a past president, and DVS was awarded

NASDV's 2020 Pillars of Excellence Award for our Forgotten Heroes Funeral Program that provides a military funeral for any veteran who, upon death, is unclaimed by a family member.

There were many presentations by members of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, including VA Deputy Secretary Donald Remy. I had the pleasure of introducing Vivian Hutson, who oversees VA's assistance for veterans in this region as its senior advisor for Pacific Strategy & Indo-Pacific efforts. (*right photo*)

And to continue DVS' strong ties to NASDVA, I was also honored to be appointed NASDVA secretary by incoming President Wanda Wright, the director of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services. I am proud and honored to be able to continue the work that NASDVA does for our veterans and their families. I will commit to serving this post by applying the motto we have at DVS—to *treat every day as Veterans Day*.



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This was my first visit to the islands—and it exceeded my expectations! In addition to our training and taking care of business, attendees visited Pearl Harbor, home of the USS Arizona Memorial and USS Missouri.

We all know the history of that fateful day on December 7, 1941, when 2,400 sailors and Marines lost their lives during the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor—an attack that prompted the United States to declare war on Japan and brought us into World War II.

As our tour boat pulled alongside the Memorial, there was a moment of silence as a wreath was placed near the wall listing the names of the 1,177 USS Arizona heroes who paid for our freedom. It was a very moving, very haunting moment for me.



We concluded the evening with a visit to the nearby battleship USS Missouri, which is moored on what was known on the day of the attack as “Battleship Row” and where, just 500 yards away, the Arizona was moored.

While the USS Arizona Memorial reminds us of the start of World War II, the “Mighty Mo” is a symbol of the end of the war. It was on her deck—the very deck I was standing on— where, on September 2, 1945, Japan formally signed surrender documents as witnessed by U.S. Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, General of the Army/ Supreme Commander for the Allies Douglas MacArthur, and the rest of the Missouri crew.

The visits were a very powerfully personal moment for me. There are no words to describe the feeling of gratitude I have for the sacrifice of those 2,400 service members and 68 on-base civilians who perished in the Pearl Harbor Attack on that fateful date almost 82-years ago.

It also reminded me of why I consider it an honor to be the secretary of New Mexico’s greatest state agency...the agency that serves New Mexico’s veterans and their families who sacrificed to serve our country.



—Sonya Smith
Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Department of Veterans Services



Kathy Snyder
SAA Director

DVS SAA Director Honored At National Conference

DVS State Approving Agency (SAA) Director Kathy Snyder was honored by her peers at the 2022 National Association of State Approving Agencies summer conference August 22-25 in San Antonio, TX.

Kathy was one of only two recipients this year of an NASAA Certificate of Appreciation. She was also one of seven recipients of an NASAA *Star Performer Award* at the conference's banquet.

The honors are in recognition of Kathy's:

- knowledge of and willingness to answer questions related to the certification of flight schools/programs for GI Bill® education benefit use by veterans
- her work the past 12 months as secretary of the NASAA's executive board
- her willingness to serve in a new role as west region vice president, effective immediately, to focus on increasing NASSA membership.

This is third time Kathy has been presented with the group's prestigious star performer award. The previous two were awarded when she was Florida's SAA director.

What is the 9/11 GI Bill?

The Post 9/11 GI Bill is an educational assistance program enacted by Congress for individuals with active duty service after September 10, 2001. The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides up to 36 months of education benefits.

Who is eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill?

To qualify, you must have served:

- 90 days of active duty service after September 10, 2001; OR
- 30 continuous days after September 10, 2001, and be discharged due to a service-connected disability.

If you are no longer on active duty, you must have received an honorable discharge.

How do I apply for the Post-9/11 GI Bill?

To complete an application, use [VA Form 22-1990](#), "Application for VA Education Benefits." You can complete the application online. For more information, please visit the [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' \(VA\) Education and Training page](#).

If you have questions:

Visit the [GI Bill customer service page](#), to search Frequently Asked Questions or ask a question Electronically. Or call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551)

[VA.gov](#) is a one-stop source for information on VA benefits and services—including the GI Bill.



New Mexico Completes First Step Joining National “Governor’s Challenge” Suicide Prevention Effort

New Mexico is among a group of ten new states to complete the policy academy phase for taking part in the Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families.

This is a nationwide collaboration of member states and U.S. territories created by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services’ Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and VA to develop suicide prevention policies for service members, veterans, and their families (SMVF).

DVS is the agency leading the effort here in New Mexico. Field Services Division Director Robin Wilson and Albuquerque Mayor’s Office Liaison and Coordinator of Military & Veterans Affairs Thomas Tozier have been named as co-chairs of the local committee, which met for the first time August 9-10 in Albuquerque. *(right photo).*

Also attending was DVS Cabinet Secretary Sonya Smith, and representatives from the New Mexico National Guard, the New Mexico Department of Health, and the New Mexico VA Health Care System.



The committee met to address the three priority areas set by the Governor’s Challenge effort:

- Identifying SMVF, and developing screening protocols for suicide risk
- Promote connectedness and improving care
- Increase lethal means awareness & safety training

As the result, the committee will:

- Roll out a statewide SMVF outreach campaign this fall
- Educate providers and peer counselors involved in intake processes of at-risk individuals (for military/veteran and civilian agencies)
- Acquire and make available at no charge 100,000 gun locks; develop a pilot program with gun stores allowing the storage of weapons w/o consequences for anyone at risk of suicide

More details will be released by DVS as they are finalized.

“We absolutely need to find answers to veteran and military suicide here in New Mexico,” said committee co-chair and DVS Director of Field Operations Robin Wilson. “DVS is prepared to co-lead the Governor’s Challenge effort here in New Mexico. It is a role we will take very seriously, and carry out vigorously.”

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New!

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



Call or Text 988 for Free, Confidential, 24/7 Mental Health Support

On July 16, 2022, the U.S. transitioned to a new three-digit "9-8-8" number to replace the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255).

Facts About 988



Accessible. It serves as a universal entry point so that no matter where you live, you can reach a trained crisis counselor who can help people in suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the U.S.



Comprehensive. 988 is a direct connection to compassionate care and support for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress – whether that is thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress.



For Everyone. People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one or someone who may need crisis support.

For Veterans. Press "1" to be immediately connected to the Veterans Crisis Line.

To learn more about 988, visit:
bit.ly/988forHope





Busy Summer and Fall for the New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC)

It's been a busy summer, and looks to be an equally busy start of fall, for the New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC)—the business development division of DVS offering small business start-up and expansion assistance.

In addition to helping entrepreneurial-minded veterans, transitioning active-duty service members, and their

spouses at the VBOC office in Albuquerque, Director Rich Coffel and VBOC Business Counselor Johnny Martinez (*standing at upper-right in photo, on August 4 at Holloman Air Force Base in Clovis*) were on the road presenting *Boots to Business: Reboot* classes at military bases in New Mexico and Colorado. The duo are scheduled to teach these classes at Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis next month, and two bases in Colorado.

Boots to Business: Reboot classes are geared towards service members who are nearing completion of their service and are interested in starting their own business. As in the one-on-one counseling offered during in-office visits, these classes let these entrepreneurial-minded service members know about resources available to start or grow a business—including free counseling to help with very step along the way. For more information about the VBOC, please [email Johnny](#) or call (505) XXX-XXXX; or [email VBOC Director Rich Coffel](#), or call him at (505) 220-9932.

DVS Briefs San Felipe Pueblo Veterans & Tribal Leadership

DVS Pueblo & Tribal Liaison Beverly Charley gave an agency briefing to veterans and leadership at San Felipe Pueblo on August 26 at the pueblo's administrative complex.

The group—which included Pueblo Lt. Governor Joseph Trancosa and Governor Carl Valencia (*L to R at the end of table*), were eager to hear about the programs and VA/state veterans benefits available for veterans.



The briefing concluded with an agreement by Beverly and Governor Valencia for him to formally contact DVS about drafting a Memorandum of Understanding for DVS to provide training for a pueblo-based veterans service officer. The governor and those in attendance said such a position would greatly address the problem of many veterans not being able to access help in filing benefits claims.

Ms. Charley has scheduled a virtual briefing on September 15 to provide information and address issues by any Native American veteran or organization. For more information, [please email her](#), or call (575) 241-3322.



Photos are from previous bricklaying events

Angel Fire Bricklaying Ceremony

Hundreds of bricks bearing the names of military veterans—living and deceased—are scheduled to be installed on September 3 at the DVS-managed Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire.

The day is scheduled to begin with an 8:30 a.m. blessing of the bricks, followed immediately by the reading of the name of each brick as it is presented to a volunteer for placement on the memorial grounds.



Nearly 5,000 memorial bricks have already been installed during previous bricklaying events along the sidewalks and pathways of the memorial grounds. For more information, please contact Vietnam Veterans Memorial Supervisor DB Herbst at (575) 377-2293.



Military & Veterans Day at the State Fair is Sept. 13

Military veterans and National Guard/Reserve/active-duty service members will be admitted free to the New Mexico State Fair for 2022 *Military and Veterans Day at the State Fair* on Tuesday, September 13.

This annual day at the state fair in Albuquerque is presented by DVS, the New Mexico National Guard, and the New Mexico State Fair to honor and thank the men and women who have served our country as

members of the United States Armed Forces.

Veterans, National Guard/Reserve personnel, and retirees must present either a valid Uniformed Services Retiree Identification Card, a veterans-designation driver's license, VA Veterans Health ID Card, or a copy of their DD-214 Separation Papers at the gate in order to obtain the free admission. Active-duty personnel must show a valid Uniformed Services ID card. Non-veteran/non-military spouses or family members are not eligible for the free admission.

In addition to the numerous rides and attractions at the state fair, there will be dozens of booths, exhibits and information tables throughout the fairgrounds staffed by DVS, the New Mexico National Guard, and dozens of other veterans' organizations, and other community service groups. For more information, [please email DVS Event Coordinator Joseph Dorn](mailto:Joseph.Dorn@dvs.nm.gov), or call him at (505) 861-9117.



New Mexico Department of Veterans Services Military Honors Fall Training Conference and Competition 2022



DATE: Thursday September 15, 2022

TIME: 0745-1600

LOCATION: New Mexico Veterans Memorial
1100 Louisiana Blvd. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108

POC: Diana Myklebust-(505) 231-8911



Veterans Community Bulletin Board

The following page(s) feature event and informational flyers provided to DVS by veterans and community service agencies. These flyers are published for the convenience of New Mexico's veteran community. Inclusion in *The Guardian* does not constitute an endorsement by DVS of the organization, content, products, or services contained therein.

DVS invites government agencies and non-profit service organizations to send flyers for publication in *The Guardian* announcing an upcoming or ongoing veteran-related event. DVS will run these flyers as a public service courtesy to the veteran community.

However:

- Flyers must have the name of a point-of-contact from the organization...along with the contact's phone number or email address. Flyers without this information will not be published.
- DVS is not responsible for the accuracy of the content, products, or services in these flyers.
- Views expressed in these flyers are the independent views of the authors/owners of the third-party entity that created the flyer—and does not necessarily reflect the views of DVS.
- To the maximum extent permitted by law, DVS expressly denies liability for any and all losses suffered by any persons or organizations who, in their independent discretion and reliance, either directly or indirectly rely on content, products, services or information offered by these independent third-party organizations.
- DVS reserves the right to edit or decline to publish any flyer.



☆ **WOMEN'S VETERANS** ☆

SHOW & SHINE CAR SHOW

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 3
8AM - 1PM



ENTRY FEE
\$25

ORGAN MTN. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT

5700 Mesa Grande Drive • Las Cruces, NM
 Proceeds benefit United Military Women of the Southwest (501.C.3)

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SPACE LIMITED
 First come, first served

For information, contact Karen Woods @ 575-639-1265



Location:
Wagon Mound Veterans Memorial Park
Park/Catron Ave and Railroad Ave
Wagon Mound, NM

VENDORS
FOOD TRUCKS
RECRUITERS
10K RUCK MARCH
VETERANS SERVICES

Join our community at 9am as we remember our fallen heroes during our Memorial Service at the Veterans Memorial Park on Catron Ave

At 7am, March, Walk or Run either a 5k or 10k in their remembrance - with or without a Ruck Sack. Race ends at the Veterans Park.
\$20 Registration Fee Includes a Commemorative T-Shirt*
**Proceeds go to maintain our Veterans Memorial Park. T-Shirt to first 10 that register*

Military and Law Enforcement Recruiters
Veteran Services Will Be Present

www.wmbeanday.com Info - 505-918-6469



2nd Annual **WAGON MOUND BEAN DAY**
MILITARY, VETERAN & LAW ENFORCEMENT DAY





NEW MEXICO STATE ORGANIZATION/
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

***DEDICATION OF THE ANGEL FIRE
VIETNAM WAR VETERANS' MONUMENT***

SEPTEMBER 5, 2022

10:00 AM

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL IN ANGEL FIRE
34 Country Club Rd.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:15 AM – 10:00 AM – Welcome Table opens

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – Program and Dedication

11:15 AM – 12:45 PM – Guided Tour of Angel Fire State Park

1:00 PM – Lunch at Zeb’s, Angel Fire - \$ 22 PP

Taco bar with ground beef, chicken, trimmings, rice, beans, choice of tea, coffee, or soda.

NAME _____

NUMBER ATTENDING TOUR _____

NUMBER ATTENDING LUNCHEON _____

TOTAL FOR LUNCH _____

- Lunch is \$22 PP and must be prepaid

Make check payable to NMSODAR and mail your reservation by August 27. 2022 to:

**Diane Halvorson
19 Road 5402
Farmington, NM 87401**

Salute to Heroes Weekend

September 10-11, 2022

Let's create a unified community in support of our Heroes, while highlighting Rio Rancho's patriotic spirit!

- ★ Honor the Heroes
- ★ currently serving
- ★ Saturday
- ★ September 10th
- ★ ST4B Red, White, and Blue Salute to Heroes First Responder Softball Games
- ★ Rio Rancho High School Softball Complex
- ★ South of Northern on Broadmoor Blvd. Pregame events begin at 3:30pm
- ★ Rio Rancho Mayor Hull throws the first pitch at 4pm

Honor the Fallen Heroes of 9-11

Sunday
September 11th
7am

Ceremony at
Vista Verde
Memorial Cemetery

At the game there will be food trucks, giveaways, music and more!

City Participation

Businesses: Decorate in red, white, and blue and offer discounts to those currently serving

Churches: Decorate in red, white, and blue and honor the Heroes at church service

Neighborhoods: Flags

ST4B
STAND TRUE 4 BLUE

standtrue4blue.com for more info
or call Valerie Jameson 505.228.6991

Veterans Legal Clinic

September 13, 2022 • 8:30–11 a.m.

In-Person Clinic

Veterans' Memorial Park
1100 Louisiana Blvd SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108

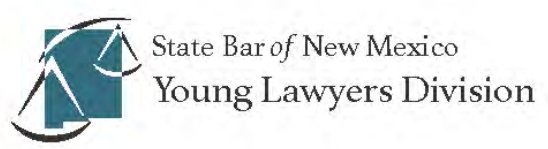
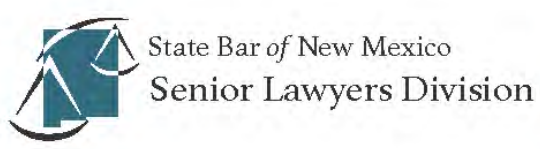
- Family Law (divorce, custody/visitation, child support)
- Consumer Rights
- Bankruptcy
- Landlord-Tenant
- Foreclosure
- Employment
- Tax
- Wills/Probate
- General Civil
- Expungement

Attendance is on a walk-in basis.

Help is contingent on volunteer attorneys. If you have any further questions, please contact the Veterans Justice Outreach Program at 505-206-9086.

Additional service providers will be in attendance to provide resources to veterans.

Masks will required for all volunteers and veterans participating in the clinic.



NM VA Health Care System



New number, same support.
Dial 988 then Press 1.



S.A.V.E. MOTORCYCLE RALLY

**VETERAN SUICIDE AWARENESS & PREVENTION
ABQ TO ANGEL FIRE**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2022 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

1,000 suicides occur per year among Veterans receiving care and as many as
5,000 per year among all living Veterans.

Please join us as we ride from the NMVAHCS to Angel Fire Veterans Memorial.
There will be several stops along the way that will outline how you can help SAVE a
Veteran's life.

For more information about this annual event, please contact
Christina.Camacho@va.gov

Operation S.A.V.E. can save lives
Signs of suicidal behavior
Ask questions
Validate the Veteran's experience
Expedite a referral



SAVE Ride Memorial Ceremony

Honoring individuals who have died from suicide

**Sunday
9/18/22 09:00**

**Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park
34 Country Club Rd, Angel Fire, NM 87710**



CONTACT CHRISTINA CAMACHO FOR MORE INFORMATION:

christina.camacho@va.gov 505-265-1711 ext. 3056

San Juan County Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Dedication



September 24, 2022

10:00 AM

Berg Park, All Veterans Memorial Plaza
Farmington NM

Donations can be made to:

Blue Star Mothers

c/o SJC Gold Star Family Monument

PO Box 917

Flora Vista, NM 87415



Welcome Golfers!

On behalf of the National Veterans Wellness & Healing Center (NVWHC) in Angel Fire, New Mexico, we would like to welcome you to join us for a day of charity and golf at the beautiful Angel Fire Golf Course.

Whether you have served in the Armed Forces or have a loved one who has served, you may be familiar with the lasting effects of Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS). NVWHC specializes in hosting free 7-day retreats for veterans and their partners suffering from PTS.

NVWHC is raising funds to support veterans and their partners wishing to attend a retreat and funds to support our new holistic retreat facility being built in Angel Fire adjacent to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

You can help in the cause by becoming a sponsor today! We have created a variety of sponsorship levels to choose from. If you are unable to provide support through a monetary donations, items for a Silent Auction/Raffle would be greatly appreciated and beneficial to the success of this event.

The future of our organization is exciting and we are full of gratitude to all those who have supported us in the past and continue to support us as we grow and evolve.

To learn more about us and our future plans, visit www.VeteransWellnessAndHealing.org

Sincerely,

The NVWHC Board of Directors and Executive Director.



Schedule of Events

8:00 AM Check-in

Driving Range, Putting Contest

9:00 AM Shotgun Start

18-Hole Scramble & Contest Holes

1:30 PM Post Tournament Lunch



Golfer Registration

Name #1 _____

Name #2 _____

Name #3 _____

Name #4 _____

Main Contact Phone _____

Email _____

Golf Entry (Fees per player)

___ \$150 Player Fee \$ _____

___ \$90 Angel Fire Golf Member \$ _____

___ \$25 Lunch only \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Mail Registration/Sponsorship form with

Check payable to:

NVWHC

P.O. Box 805

Angel Fire, NM 87710

Drop off Registration/Sponsorship form with check payable to NVWHC to

Janice Podell

58 Ash Mountain Loop

Angel Fire, NM 87710

Adjacent to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial parking lot on Country Club Drive. NVWHC has the large flagpole.

SPONSORSHIPS

GOLD SPONSOR \$2000

- 2 Tournament Foursomes
- Club House Banner at Tournament
- Putting Green Sign
- White Tee Hole Sponsor
- Red Tee Hole Sponsor
- 20 - 50/50 Raffle Tickets

SILVER SPONSOR \$1000

- 1 Tournament Foursome
- Putting Green Sign
- White Tee Hole Sponsor
- Red Tee Hole Sponsor
- 10 - 50/50 Raffle Tickets

BRONZE SPONSOR \$500

- 1 Tournament Foursome
- 10 - 50/50 Raffle Tickets

WHITE TEE HOLE SPONSOR \$200

RED TEE HOLE SPONSOR \$100

OTHER DONATION \$ _____

Name on Signage _____

Business Contact _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____



National Veterans Wellness & Healing Center

575.377.5236

Info@veteranswellnessandhealing.org

P.O. Box 805

Angel Fire, NM

87710

Thank you for supporting Veteran Families!

NVWHC CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

Hosted by the National Veterans Wellness & Healing Center (NVWHC) to raise awareness and support for Veterans with PTS.



Angel Fire Resort Golf Course

Sunday, September 25, 2022

9:00 AM Shotgun Start

18-Hole Four Person Team Scramble

All proceeds benefit NVWHC and the veteran families we serve!





1st Annual Dennis Geshel Memorial Golf Tournament Benefitting Honor Flight of Northern New Mexico

Friday, September 30th, 2022
PRESENTED BY COMPASSUS

Honor Flight of Northern New Mexico is a non-profit organization created to honor New Mexico's veterans for all their sacrifices. Funds raised from the golf tournament help take our heroes on a FREE 3-day trip to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. Current priority is given to World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War Veterans along with Veterans from other conflicts who may be terminally ill.

Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place!

For more information, please contact Adeline Herrera at 505.250.6662 or info@hfnm.org



Breakfast and registration at 8AM. Lunch will be served directly following the tournament. Collared shirts are required.

Isleta Eagle Golf Course

4001 New Mexico 47

Friday, September 30, 2022

Morning Shotgun—9AM





**1st Annual Dennis Geshel
Memorial Golf Tournament
Benefitting
Honor Flight of Northern New Mexico**

Friday, September 30th, 2022

Isleta Eagle Golf Course

Breakfast/ Registration 8:00AM -Morning Shotgun 9:00AM

Company Name	Player Name

TOURNAMENT SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Honor Level \$3500

- Four golfers, one team
- Company logo on all tournament banners
- 1x Guardian position on 2023trip
- Includes airfare, hotel, meals plus transportation within Baltimore/ D.C. area
- Recognition on guardian t-shirts issued during 2023 HFNNM trip
- Recognition on table tents at breakfast and dinners during 2023 HFNNM trip

Charter Level: \$2500

- Four golfers, one team
- Company logo on all tournament banners
- Recognition on table tents at breakfast and dinners during 2023 HFNNM trip

Flight Level: \$2000

- Four golfers, one team
- Company logo on all tournament banners

Individual Player: \$125

- Will be assigned to a team

Cart Sponsorship \$1500

- Four golfers, one team
- Company logo on all carts

Breakfast Sponsor 1000

- Four golfers, one team
- Signage at breakfast table

Lunch Sponsor: \$1000

- Four golfers, one team
- Signage at lunch table

Single Hole: \$300

- Company name on the hole signage
- (12 Single Hole Sponsorships available)

Tent Sponsor \$300

- Opportunity to put a tent/table with branding info at an individual hole

Foursome: \$500

- Four golfers, one team



247th Marine Corps Birthday Ball DEVIL DOG BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP



Saturday, November 5, 2022
Embassy Suites, 1000 Woodward Pl NE
Albuquerque, NM 87102



Help Us Celebrate the 247th Birthday of the
United States Marine Corps
With Your Devil Dog Business Sponsorship - \$1,000
Sale Ends October 1, 2022

Sponsorship Includes:

- ❖ Corporate table with eight (8) complimentary tickets to the formal dress banquet and Birthday Ball
- ❖ Sponsorship recognition in the event program
- ❖ Your business logo displayed on your table as a sponsor
- ❖ Recognition of your business sponsorship during the program
- ❖ A display plaque to your business from Marine Corps League Detachment 1316 in appreciation for your support of veterans
- ❖ Your business card in each guest's swag bag (estimated 200 card minimum)

This is a Full Traditional Marine Corps Ball
Including Formal Banquet

Contact Stephanie Pugh at (417) 793-0022 or
Email herspugh@yahoo.com for more information

A Powerful Mountain Retreat to Reduce Stress, Gain Insight, and Strengthen Your Relationships

The **National Veterans Wellness & Healing Center** offers **FREE** 7-day retreats for Veterans and their partners that are coping with Post Traumatic Stress (PTS).
Download an application on our website or call to have one mailed to you.

This opportunity for healing is one of a kind!

YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

You will enjoy activities like:

- Group education to enlighten you and give you over 50 new coping tools
- Individual counseling to ensure privacy
- Alternative modalities to reduce stress and promote strength and healing like: Massage, Acupuncture, Chiropractic Care, Reiki, Qi-ssage, Yoga, and Art
- Equine experiences to teach non-verbal communication skills

2022 Retreat Dates:

***May 1-8**

***June 5-12**

***August 21-28**

*** October 28-30**

For more retreat information and to download an application,
please visit

<http://www.VeteransWellnessAndHealing.org>

email or call us at:

info@veteranswellnessandhealing.org

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, November 11, 2022

8am - 4pm

Isleta Resort and Casino



Southwest Native American Veterans Health and Wellness Symposium 2022



Sponsored by:

Isleta Pueblo Veterans

New Mexico VA Healthcare System

AARP New Mexico

Hosted by:

The Pueblo of Isleta Veterans Association



Join Our Team!

IFSAC Certification Training and Certificates

Earn Credit Hours Towards a College Degree

Compressed Work Schedule During the Academy 4 days a week

Military Friendly Employer

Full Pay and Benefits while in Academy

\$7500 retention incentive within the first year

\$23.64 per hour during the Academy

Housing/relocation allowance

Military Members:

GI-Bill Benefits

- If Eligible by VA receive a monthly benefit stipend and housing allowance
- On the job training (OJT) benefit with stipend through GI-Bill

<https://selfservice.losalamosnm.us/ess/employmentopportunities/default.aspx>



WOMEN VETERANS

THE INVISIBLE HOMELESS



UNEMPLOYMENT IS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO HOMELESSNESS:

47,000 veterans reported homeless	4,338 women veterans reported homeless
495,000 veterans reported unemployed	23,000 women veterans reported unemployed

70% of homeless women veterans are single mothers

Women veterans are 2 to 3 times more likely to be homeless than any other group in the US adult population



Final Salute Inc.

Awareness. Assistance. Aspiration.

For women Vets. By women Vets.

Are we to assume that 18,662 women veterans, most with children, are able to maintain housing and care for their children without employment?

The VA assesses women veterans through their Homelessness Screening Clinical Reminder (HSCR), a universal screener that assesses housing instability and risk among Veterans who present for outpatient care and are not already engaged with VA Homeless Programs.

22 MILLION VETERANS TOTAL

2.2 MILLION OF THEM ARE WOMEN VETERANS

VA screening was only able to screen 3 million veterans, of which most were white males aged 51-60

80%

It is estimated that 82% of women veterans do not use the VA for healthcare

This screening method leaves 1,800,000 women veterans unscreened and uncounted

An Infographic by Final Salute Inc. www.finalsaluteinc.org

Housing Outreach Mentorship Encouragement (H.O.M.E)



The H.O.M.E. Program provides transitional housing, on-site case management, food, clothing, transportation, child care subsidy/assistance, employment support, and other essential support services to homeless women Veterans and their children.

The H.O.M.E. Program focuses on integrating women Veterans into their local communities and choosing safe and suitable residential areas.

Our H.O.M.E. Program collaborates with our resource partners that include targeted supportive services to help women Veterans reach their goals.

Although based in the D.C. Metro Area, our programs have assisted women Veterans and children in over 32 States and Territories.

We also assist with permanent placement once Veterans are ready to transition from our residential facilities.

H.O.M.E Eligibility

1. Must have an "honorable or under honorable conditions" discharge; verified by DD-214*. (*Requires completion of initial service obligation (ISO), unless medically discharged)
2. Must be willing to adhere to terms of the Resident Agreement and 2-Year Plan for Independence.

Note 1: Final Salute, Inc. will review discharges beyond honorable conditions on a case-by-case basis.

Note 2: Financial education classes are mandatory as part of the H.O.M.E. Program.

To apply for H.O.M.E (housing assistance) please [click here](#)

MISSION

Final Salute Inc. (FSI) 's mission is to provide homeless women Veterans and their children with safe and suitable housing.

The federal government estimates there are currently 55,000 homeless women Veterans in the United States on any given day. For the sacrifices they and their families made, this is an unacceptable state. Final Salute Inc. believes in paying women Veterans with the proper respect due to them for the service they have provided to our country. Final Salute also works with the Veteran in establishing her plan towards independence. [Veteran Homelessness White Paper V2.pdf](#)

FSI was established to identify and meet the unique needs of homeless women Veterans and their children.

Next Uniform

The Next Uniform provides support for women Veterans and military women in transition. As a woman Veteran in transition, you need more than a resume to ensure a successful transition into the civilian workforce.

We provide (free of charge):

- Professional Business Attire
- Dress Shoes
- Accessories
- Make-Overs
- Image Consulting
- Professional Head-Shots (Linked-In Profiles)

The purpose of this event is to honor the service and sacrifice you have made to this great nation and support our Sisters-in-Arms who are in transition or have transitioned and may need an image boost.

We realize that some women Veterans, especially single mothers, may find the cost of securing an up-to-date professional wardrobe unattainable.



Savings Assessment and Financial Education (S.A.F.E)



The purpose of S.A.F.E. is to prevent homelessness by easing financial hardships.

Our S.A.F.E. program also provides valuable financial education resources on saving, budgeting, and living on a fixed income.

S.A.F.E. provides emergency financial support by assisting with past due rent, security deposits, and utility assistance.

Residents of our H.O.M.E. program must participate in the financial education component of our S.A.F.E. program.

The S.A.F.E. program is open to women Veterans and members of the U.S. Military Reserve and Guard component forces, regardless of their location. Our programs have assisted women Veterans and children in over 30 States and Territories.

The S.A.F.E. program is open to women Veterans and members of the U.S. Military Reserve and Guard component forces, regardless of their location. Our programs have assisted women Veterans and children in over 30 States and Territories.

S.A.F.E ELIGIBILITY

1. Proof of Veteran* status or current U.S. Military Reserve/Guard component service. (*Requires completion of initial service obligation (ISO), unless medically discharged)
2. Copies of the bills that you are having difficulty paying (must be past due).
3. Military I.D. (if Reserve or Guard)
4. Final Salute, Inc. may also request additional documents such as an Employment Letter.

To apply for S.A.F.E (financial assistance) please [click here](#)

Please be advised, assistance is dependent upon funding currently available.

<https://www.finalsaluteinc.org/AssistanceRequest.html>



News from the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs

VA Extends Temporary Hardship Suspension for Benefit Debts

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is extending its financial hardship suspension on benefit debts through December 31. This relief option, established to help Veterans through the COVID-19 pandemic, was set to expire September 30.

Beginning in September, debt notification letters will be mailed to affected Veterans advising them of the extended hardship suspension option, as well as extended debt repayment plans, waivers and compromises. Benefit debts include debts related to disability compensation, non-service-connected pension and education benefits.

“Helping veterans manage, pay off, and — in some cases — eliminate their debt is one of our top priorities,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “Extending this hardship suspension is a key part of that critical effort, and it will help ease the burden for veterans who are living with debt.”

In recent years, VA has made real progress toward helping Veterans manage their debts. These efforts include:

- Canceling copayments for medical care and pharmacy services from April 2020 to September 2021, which saved more than 1.5 million veterans about \$1 billion dollars.
- [Publishing a final rule](#) that reduced the number of veterans referred to credit agencies by 99%, meaning medical debt will no longer affect those veterans' credit scores.
- Transitioning from a complex paper application to enhanced online tools where veterans can [learn about what they owe](#) and apply for relief.
- Streamlining the Veterans Health Administration debt waiver process for medical debts, requiring less paperwork for veterans, while expediting processing times and expanding relief eligibility.
- Temporarily eliminating the requirement for a [Financial Status Report](#) to receive a hardship determination.

Veterans and beneficiaries can [manage their debt online](#) or call (800) 827-0648 with questions regarding benefit overpayments. For information about medical care and pharmacy copayment debt, veterans and beneficiaries can contact the Health Resource Center at (866) 400-1238.



DVS Field Offices in New Mexico

DVS has field offices throughout the state that are staffed with nationally-certified veterans service officers. These VSOs are military veterans themselves who are dedicated to helping their fellow veterans with filing VA claims, filing for state veterans benefits, or helping with anything else a veteran or their family needs.

Office hours are Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm, (excluding holidays). Though this service is free, appointments are required and can be made by contacting the offices below.

Please note that in addition to in-office assistance, veterans from anywhere in the state can contact *any* DVS VSO for phone or email assistance.

Also listed below and on the following page is the contact information for the DVS Women Veterans Program for women veterans who prefer assistance by a woman VSO, and the DVS Tribal/Pueblo Liaison for Native American veterans preferring assistance from a Native American VSO. Contact information is also listed for the DVS-managed Angel Fire, Fort Stanton, and Gallup State Veterans Cemeteries, and the New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) for veterans who want to open, expand, or purchase a business—or bid on state or federal government contracts.

Alamogordo/Southern NM

David Henley

411 10th Street #107

(575) 937-5620

david.henley1@state.nm.us

Albuquerque Metro Area

Jesus Palomino

DVS Albuquerque Office
5201 Eagle Rock Blvd. NE/Suite 2

(505) 681-6998

jesus.palomino1@state.nm.us

Albuquerque Metro Area

Dayle Bad Warrior

DVS Albuquerque Office
5201 Eagle Rock Blvd. NE/Suite 2

(505) 383-2400

dayle.badwarrior1@state.nm.us

Albuquerque Metro Area

Patrick Abney

5201 Eagle Rock Blvd. NE

(505) 525-3331

patrick.abney@state.nm.us

Carlsbad/Southeast NM

Dagmar Youngberg

101 N. Halagueno

(575) 988-5900

dagmar.youngberg@state.nm.us

Clovis/Eastern New Mexico

Matt Barela

904 W. Sixth St.

(575) 825-9602

matthew.barela@state.nm.us

Farmington/Northwest NM

Please contact DVS Pueblos/Tribal Liaison Beverly Charley for assistance at (575) 241-3322 or

beverly.charley@state.nm.us.

Gallup/Western NM

John Livingston

908 E. Buena Vista Ave/Room 1A

(505) 389-8731

john.livingston@state.nm.us

Grants/Western NM

April Ball

551 Washington Ave.

(505) 521-8132

april.ball@state.nm.us

(more offices are listed on the next page)

Hobbs/Southeast NM

Fred Solis-Littlejohn

2120 North Alto St.

(575) 241-0714

fred.solis-little@state.nm.us

Las Cruces/Southern NM

Miguel Martinez

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 216-8782

miguel.martinez1@state.nm.us

Las Cruces/Southern NM

Vincent Tellez

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 216-8782

vincent.tellez@state.nm.us

Las Cruces/Southern NM

Third Las Cruces VSO position is temporarily vacant. Please contact the other DVS VSOs for assistance.

Las Vegas, NM/Northeast NM

Martín Márquez

917 Douglas Ave.

(575) 520-5079

martinM.marquez@state.nm.us

Las Vegas/Northeast NM

Arturo Marlow

917 Douglas Ave.

(505) 331-8838

arturo.marlow@state.nm.us

Rio Rancho/Central NM

Dustin Newsom

Sandoval County Administrative Bldg.

1500 Idalia Rd./Bldg. D, Room 2041

(505) 221-7190

dustin.newsom@state.nm.us

Roswell/Southeast New Mexico Santa Fe/Northern NM

Danielle Thompson

1600 SE Main St./Suite "A"

(575) 416-2284

danielle.thompson@state.nm.us

Nick McKenzie

Bataan Memorial Bldg/1st floor

407 Galisteo St./Room 134

(505) 218-3125

nicholas.mckenzie1@state.nm.us

Silver City/Southwest NM

Chris Teran

Western New Mexico University

Juan Chacon Bldg./Room 138-A

1000 West College Ave.

(575) 313-5627

christopher.teran@state.nm.us

Taos/Northern New Mexico

Leticia "Lety" Cano

Human Services Bldg/145 Roy Rd.

(575) 709-5263

leticiaL.cano@state.nm.us

Women Veterans Program

Theresa Figueroa

DVS Albuquerque Office

5201 Eagle Rock Blvd. NE/Suite 2

(505) 916-7449

theresaE.figueroa@state.nm.us

Pueblos/Tribal Liaison

Beverly Charley

San Juan College Veterans Center

4601 College Blvd./Room 1715-B

(575) 241-3322

beverly.charley@state.nm.us

Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC)

Rich Coffel (Director)

DVS Albuquerque Office

5201 Eagle Rock Blvd. NE/Suite 2

(505) 220-9932

richardL.coffel@state.nm.us

Angel Fire State Veterans Cemetery

Randy Myklebust (Supervisor)

34 Country Club Rd.

(505) 225-4341

randal.myklebust@state.nm.us

Ft. Stanton State Veterans Cemetery

Stephen McConnell (Supervisor)

1398 State Highway 220

(505) 383-4381

stephen.mcconnell@state.nm.us

Gallup State Veterans Cemetery

Gilbert Lopez (Supervisor)

333 National Cemetery Dr.

(505) 905-9771

gilbert.lopez@state.nm.us